Patriots Bury Polar Bears

by John Middlekauff

Friday night (11/02) was a beautiful night to be out under the stars. It was fine weather in which the Northern seniors and their parents were honored prior to the start of the football game with Red Land.

As far as the game itself is concerned, it was over early as Red Land mocked it to Northern 45-0. It was difficult to tell whether the Patriots were treating the Bears to a late "trick or treat" or a very early "stuffing"! Northern was simply outclassed. Nothing the Bears did, seemed to go right. Instead they just self-destructed in their final Division II contest of the season. This was a game in which Northern had to click on all cylinders offensively, in order to stay with the front-running Patriots. Unfortunately, Northern simply misfired.

The Polar Bears won the toss and decided to defer until the second half. Red Land took the opening kickoff and marched down field, all on the ground, to score in eleven plays. The culprit of this first touchdown was Sophomore Tailback Mike Vermuellen. Please remember the name, folks. Red Land has had a nasty habit of coming up with young talented tailbacks who make life miserable for their opponents. Remember Heath Snell? How about Mike Yingst? Both these gentlemen made their mark early for Red Land, and it appears Mr. Vermuellen is made of the same fiber. Against Northern, on this balmy evening, Mike rushed 16 times for 114 yards and scored three touchdowns.

More damage was done in the first quarter, when Red Land defensive back Greg Troxbaker intercepted Phil Getty's first toss of the evening and raced it in front 36 yards out, giving the Patriots a lead they would never lose.

It was complete domination by Red Land. Look at these stats, rushing the Patriots outdid the Bears 235 to 69. Passing, Red Land gained 124 yards to Northern's 9. In first downs, Red Land picked up 20 to Northern's 3. But the one that really hits home, was the fact that Red Land never pinned once in this contest.

Red Land's offense gets a great deal of press, and rightfully so, but their defense was in great form on this night, as well. Northern's trio of running backs (Habowski, Flohr, and Leitzel) couldn't find a hole big enough to even squeeze through. This was a contest in which Northern's passing attack would have to open things up. It didn't happen! For the third straight game, Junior QB Phil Getty just had a terrible game. Intercepted four times by the very tenacious RL defense, the Patriots turned three of those into touchdowns.

So it is that the Polar Bears put this one behind them and work for the final game of the season. Friday night Northern will host the Trinity Shamrocks from Division III. This one should go in the Polar Bear win column. Trinity has struggled all year, and finished at the bottom of their division with a 1-6-0 record. The Shamrocks have an overall record of 2-8-0 coming into the last game.

Trinity just does not have the manpower, at least I feel, to stay with Northern. Still the Shamrocks have a couple of people who could make things interesting if Northern isn't careful. Jim Urban has good speed, has excellent hands, and is an excellent kick returnman. The main weapon for Trinity, is young Quarterback Jon O'Brien. My sources tell me that Mr. O'Brien can downright throw the ball. If given the time, he can hurt you.

The Bears can do themselves proud, by getting their act together and show Trinity, show their fans, and show themselves that this was a better football team than the record showed. Good luck Bears!

The Bears couldn't score against Red Land all night but did get off several exciting plays.

Photo by David March

A Northern tackler puts the clamp on a Red Land ball carrier.

Photo by David Gohosky

Midget football ends with a win

The midget team ended the year with a win on Saturday, November 3. The team was losing 6-0 at half-time.

They came out with a great second half. They won the game 20 to 6. There were some fine jobs done in this game.

The front line did an outstanding job. They were: Jeff Westhafer, Shawn Arnold, Clif Dorsey, Steve Gumpher, Ohrout Kounlavong, Troy Oyer, Braadon Carper, Chris McDermitt.

They made the hole in which the backs needed for movement of the ball down the field. The backs were: Fullback, Steve Ritchey. Halfbacks, Josh Kunkle, Josh Reynolds, and Patrick Hicks. Steve Ritchey had eight carries for 63 yards, Josh Kunkle had 4 carries for 15 yards, Josh Reynolds had 6 carriers for 45 yards, and Patrick Hicks had 10 carries for 114 yards and 3 touchdowns.

The coaches would like to thank Shawn Arnold, who has played fullback all season. He offered to move to tackle for the game due to an injury to Tim Walker. Thank you, Shawn for one great job.

The defense did an outstanding job. The team included: end, Josh Ingram; tackle, Steve Ritchey, Noseguard, Ohrout Kounlavong; tackle, Clif Dorsey and end, Jeff Westhafer; outside linebacker, Jesse Manoni and Josh Kunkle; inside linebackers, Troy Oyer and Shawn Arnold; safetys, Josh Reynolds and Patrick Hicks.

At defense, Josh Ingram did an outstanding job at left end. He had 4 tackles and 1 interception and 1 fumble recovery. Steve Ritchey had 3 tackles and 5 assists, Ohrout had 4 tackles and 2 assists. Clif Dorsey had 5 tackles and 2 assists. Jesse Manoni had 4 assists, Troy Oyer and Shawn Arnold had 3 tackles and 5 assists each. Troy also had a fumble recovery. Patrick Hicks and Josh Reynolds had 5 assists each.

The coaches would like to thank all the boys who played for the midget team which had their best season this year. They finished 3 and 7, the best in the last five years.

The boys are: Shawn Arnold, Josh Ingram, Josh Reynolds, Patrick Hicks, Josh Kunkle, Tim Walker, Jason Galloway, Steve Ritchey, Ohroun Kountavong, Troy Oyer, Zack Lupold, Danny Perva, Steven Gumpher, Clif Dorsey, Dave Lenhart, Jesse Manoni, Chris McDermitt, Jeff Westhafer, Brandon Carper, Clair Giles, Nathan Shuman and Josh Kimmel. These young men played the game as a team all year long.

The coaches would like to send get well wishes to Tim Walker, who broke an ankle, and to Clair Giles who missed the last game with the chicken pox.

Assembly of God Speaker

The Reverend K.P. Donnan will be speaking November 16-18 at 7 p.m. each night and also in the 10:45 a.m. Sunday service at the Dillsburg Assembly of God Church. The church is located at the corner of W. York and Beaver Sts. in Dillsburg.

Rev. Donnan, a Pentecostal minister ordained in 1972 is a dynamic preacher of God's word, especially so soo signs following and is distinctive in ministering to those who desire the gifts of the Spirit.

Rev. Donnan is the author of books on church history music and theology. He has developed a unique method of teaching musical instruments which he has taught in schools, Bible colleges and universities in both the U.K. and the U.S.A.

The Rev. Donnan has been in fellowship with the Cameron family of Peterhead, Scotland, where they minister from time to time. Rev. Donnan visits the saints behind the Iron Curtain and tells of many exciting incidents while taking the Bible to those in need. He is also pastor of the Assembly in Stranraer, Scotland.

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Photo by David March

Luckily the canine went for the fleeing "suspect" above, Harrisburg officer Frank Angelini, and not the photographer, during last week's American Canine Triathlon in Monoe Township.

Varsity soccer, Bear's record is "best ever"

The 1990 Northern boys varsity soccer squad ended their season with a record of 14-3-1, the best ever posted by the Bears. Two of the losses came at the hands of the Trinity Shamrocks a Division III rival which prevented the team from also repeating as Mid Penn Champions.

Depth was a word often utilized to describe the team, for all seventeen players were able to make significant contributions. The Bears used their collective talents to pile up fourteen victories, including highlight wins over upper division foes Red Land and Mechanicsburg. Northern's efforts gained enough respect to attract an "at-large" invitation to the District III AA tournament.

The "at-large" berth in the tourney came after the Bears dropped a qualifier game to Bishop McDevitt, 3-1. Northern controlled the play in this one in three of four periods. However, the let down in the second period allowed McDevitt to score the game winners. The Bears outshot McDevitt 18-17, but the lone shot to find its' mark was an unassisted goal by high scoring senior, Mario Ceo.

On October 22, the Bears traveled to Northern Lebanon to face York Suburban in round one of district play. Combining their usual short and long passing game, the Bears again peppered the opponent with many more shots than our defense allowed. Northern missed on several early opportunities and were deadlocked 1-1 at halftime. The initial Bear goal was by Steve Miller off an assist by Andy Spicher.

It was Ceo scoring the go-ahead goal in the second half, with Drew Siverling providing the assist. Some top notch goaltending by keeper Eric Sanderam preserved the win.

Second round action took Northern to Carlisle in a matchup with tough Lancaster Mennonite. Mennonite came into the contest reputed to be a big squad physically and depth-wise. Both attributes proved correct, however, the Bears proved to L.M. that Northern belonged in these playoffs. Mennonite used their extraordinary depth to full advantage, playing a total of 24 different players in a close contest.

The Northern defense once again turned in an outstanding effort. Jason Gerber, Drew Siverling, Steve Miller, Jason Sniffin, Tony Pizzagola, Chris Kilmore, Chad Rosenberger, Brett Giner, Tom Sarup and Tim Irwin are all defenders or mid-fielders who combined to keep opponents out of the Northern end and push the ball upfield to the strikers. Their names don't find the papers as often as the scorers, but in the teamwork game of soccer their contribution is unmeasurable.

Against the strong Lancaster foe, the Bears limited the Mennonite squad to a 2nd period goal off a corner kick and another score, with under four minutes to go in the game, when Northern was pushing players forward in an effort to tie the game.

Unfortunately for the Bears, they were unable to net any scores of their own. Several dangerous opportunities inside the eighteen were turned away. The Bears played the last 30 minutes one man short due to a red card ejection on what Coach Sweeney regarded as "a questionable call". Final score Lancaster Mennonite 2, Northern 0.

Sweeney reports that, "The team showed that they really deserved their at-large entry with tough play in the tournament. We had a fun year, some disappointments like not winning our division, but it was surely a successful season."

Season end statistics show that the Bears outscored their opposition 69-32. Mid Penn Division III record 11-2-1, regular season record 14-3-1 after over, and with playoffs 15-5-1.

Leading scorer was Ceo with 16 goals, followed by sophomore Kyle Hess with 14 goals. Junior Joel Yohn added 10 goals, while senior Andy Spicher combined a team leading 12 assists with his 8 goals.

Not many teams have the good fortune of Northern at the keeper position. Often squads search for a quality player to guard the net. The Bears had the pleasure to have two. Mike Walton and Eric Sanderson, both seniors. Although Sanderson had the edge in total playing time, Walton shared the spotlight in the net. Several times each keeper played one half of a contest, and on occasion Walton would tend goal the entire game. It takes an unselfish team player to share his position and the soccer program will miss these two seniors next year.

Soccer fans can catch three Polar Bears in their final high school action in the Senior All-Star Game. Marie Ceo, Drew Siverling, and Andy Spicher have been selected for the game which will be played at Carlisle High School on November 14, 1990 at 6:15 p.m.

Books

by Ralph Hollenbeck

THE POETS OF TIN PAN ALLEY. by Philip Furia (Oxford Univ. Press, $22.95).

THE HARPER DICTIONARY OF OPERA & OPERETTA, by James Anderson (Harper Collins $36.00).

"Who wrote 'Stop Dont?" If asked, the immediate response from most would be Hoagy Carmichael. They'd be half right. Hoagy wrote the music, of course, the memorable lyrics were penned by a skilled and sensitive lyricist named Mitchell Parish.

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